

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR BELL, LONG, ERS AND FAS

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TAGS: EAGR UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT - INFORMAL
MEETING NOVEMBER 11

1. SUMMARY: OPENING MEETING BETWEEN U.S. ADVANCE PARTY AND SOVIETS ENCOURAGING. ATMOSPHERE FRIENDLY AND ACCOMMODATING. THIS APPEARS TO U.S. PARTICIPANTS AS INDICATIVE OF STRONG SOVIET INTEREST TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT. IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON JOINT PROJECTS WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY. THIS MAY BE DUE TO MORE THAN ONE YEAR OF DISCUSSION IN THIS AREA WHICH HAS NARROWED PRACTICAL POSSIBILITIES; IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND INFORMATION A WIDE GULF IN APPROACH STILL HAS TO BE BRIDGED. NO ASSESSMENT CAN YET BE GIVEN AS TO CERTAINTY THAT CENTRAL U.S. OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING SYSTEM FOR OBTAINING KEY DATA ON SUPPLY, UTILIZATION MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CAN BE ACHIEVED. AS PRIVATE INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOT YET JOINED DISCUSSIONS THE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL ARISE IN THIS AREA HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED. UNLESS SOME MAJOR ISSUE WHICH CANNOT BE RECONCILED ARISES THE OUTLOOK IS THAT SOME LIMITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OVERALL BEGINNING CAN BE AGREED TO CARRY OUT COOPERATIVE AGREE-

MENTS. THE MEETINGS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL CHANGE OR CONFIRM THE FOREGOING. END SUMMARY.

2. ADVANCE PARTY MET SOVIETS FOR THREE HOURS SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE WITH MINIMUM OF PRELIMINARIES. SOVIET CONTINGENT OF 20 LED BY MIKHAIL RODIN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION, MINAG. FRASER SPOKESMAN FOR USDEL. AFTER 20 MINUTE OPENING, MEETING DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS: GENERAL MATTERS, AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH GENERAL UNDERSTANDING DISCUSSIONS TO BE PRELIMINARY, CLARIFYING AND WITHOUT COMMITMENT. SOVIETS AGREED WITH U.S. PROPOSAL THAT OBJECTIVE OF FIRST SESSION JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION SHOULD BE TO ARRIVE AT MODEST BEGINNING PACKAGE OF COOPERATIVE UNDERTAKINGS.

3. IN "GENERAL MATTERS GROUP" MEETING SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 12-15 AGREED AND SOME DIFFERENCES ON AGENDA FOR JOINT COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MEETINGS RESOLVED. RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR JOINT COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS AGREED AFTER EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL CHANGES, SUBJECT TO FINAL CLEARANCE BY LEGAL AUTHORITIES BOTH SIDES. PROBLEMS RELATED TO PROBABLE DIFFICULTIES IN ASSIGNING PROJECTS INVOLVING U.S. PRIVATE INDUSTRY BETWEEN AREAS OF COMPETENCE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORKINGHAGUPS EXPLORED WITH UNDERTAKING FROM SOVIET SIDE TO CONSIDER INSERTION OF LANGUAGE IN RULES OF PROCEDURE TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO DEAL WITH SUCH SITUATIONS. ROLE OF SECRETARIATS DISCUSSED REVEALING SUBSTANTIAL CONSENSUS ON CENTRAL COORDINATING FUNCTION ENVISAGED ON BOTH SIDES. SOVIETS CONCEDED THEY ALSO STILL VERY MUCH IN ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESS AS WE ARE.

4. SOVIETS PRESENTED IN RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL GROUP THIRD VERSION OF PROPOSALS. U.S. SIDE GAVE BROAD OVERVIEW DESCRIBING LONG-TERM RESEARCH TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN GENERAL AREAS OF PLANT AND LIVESTOCK AND SOIL SCIENCE AND MECHANIZATION. GENERAL ACCEPTANCE BY SOVIETS. DETAIL PROJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED MONDAY. APPEARS AGREEMENT ON JOINT PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN CAN BE ARRIVED AT WITHOUT TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY.

5. AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SESSION INDICATED SOME COOPERATION POSSIBLE FOR OUR FIRST TWO PROJECTS, BUT STILL QUITE UNCLEAR WHAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIETS CAN AND WILL DO ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE. LATTER SAID ACCEPTABLE IN PRINCIPLE BY SOVIETS, BUT THAT DETAILS CANNOT YET BE DECIDED AND NOT REALLY CRUCIAL TO AGREEMENT. SOVIETS TALKED MAINLY ABOUT THEIR FOUR PROPOSALS ON FORECASTING AND MATHEMATICAL MODELING. AT ONE POINT THEY SEEMED TO BE SAYING THAT DATA COULD ONLY BE PROVIDED IN CONNECTION WITH LATTER, BUT LATER MOVED AWAY FROM THIS LINE. THEY INDICATED NO OBJECTION TO COOPERATOR PROJECTS AND U.S. FOOD EXHIBITION IN MOSCOW. WE SAID SOME U.S. INTEREST

IN TWO OF THEIR PROPOSALS AND LITTLE OR NONE IN OTHER TWO, BUT
THAT OUR BIG INTEREST WAS IN INFORMATION EXCHANGE WHICH MUST BE
SEPARATE PROJECT. SOVIETS SAID TWO MEETINGS ON CURRENT SUPPLY-
DEMAND SITUATION AND ON-SITE OBSERVATION BY SPECIALISTS ACCEPTED
IN PRINCIPLE.DUBS

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